

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 04497 260923Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 AID-05 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /080 W
-----123626 260929Z /10

O R 260846Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1337
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PEPR, KS
SUBJ: KOREAN MEDIA ON US RELATED TOPIC,HMAY 26

REF: SEOUL 4429 (DTG 250854Z MAY 78)

1. BRZEZINSKI. PRESS FOLLOWS LEAD OF BLUE HOUSE SPOKESMAN
THAT MEETING WITH PRES PARK CENTERED ON EXCHANGE OF VIEWS
ON KOREAN PENINSULAR PEACE AND SECURITY AS WELL AS MUTUAL
INTEREST OF ROK/US. LETTER FROM CARTER IS VIEWED AS
"SIGNIFICANT", WITH SPECULATION THAT LETTER STRESSED
IMPORTANCE OF FRIENDLY US/ROK TIES. MOST PAPERS HAVE FULL
COVERAGE OF BRZEZINSKI AIRPORT REMARKS INCLUDING Q'S AND A'S.
PRESS EMPHASIZES BRZEZINSKI'S STATEMENTS ON 1) "HEALTHY"
NATURE OF US/ROK ALLIANCE; 2) NO DISCUSSION WITH PRES PARK
ON SPECIFIC BILATERAL CONCERNS -- RATHER, BROAD STRATEGIC
OBJECTIVES; 3) HOPE FOR CONTINUATION ON HEALTHY COURSE
OF KOREAN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT. EDITORIALS/
COMMENTARY UNIFORMLY SEE TRIP AS IMPORTANT AND
REASSURING (TWO COMMENTARIES GO AS FAR AS SAYING TRIP
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 04497 260923Z

HAS "COMPLETELY DISPELLED KOREAN WORRY AND CONCERN").
KYONGHYANG SINMUN SAYS BRZEZINSKI DIDN'T SIMPLY "STOP
BY" KOREA, BUT CAME WITH THE PURPOSE OF DISPELLING

KOREAN DOUBTS (IN THIS HE SUCCEEDED).

2. HOUSE VOTE. PRESS IS PREDICTABLY NEGATIVE TOWARD

HOUSE ACTION ON NON-MILITARY AID, BUT EEC RIALX
NOT CARRY THE VENOM OF PAST COMMENTARIES. TONE IS
ONE OF CRITICIZING CONGRESSIONAL INABILITY TO SEE
BROADER MORE IMPORTANT NATURE OF OVERALL US/ROK
RELATIONS WHILE STUBBORNLY CONCERNTRATING ON KIM DONG-JO
ISSUE. CHUNGANG ILBO CALLS CONGRESS "CHILDISH" IN
PRESSING ISSUE, SINCE \$56 MILLION ("NOT EVEN GRANT AID")
LOAN IS TRIVIAL AMOUNT. SEVERAL PAPERS URGE THE MATTER
TO BE DEALT WITH THROUGH DIPLOMATIC MEANS.

3. SCM. ALL PAPERS HAVE OP WIRE STORY (SOURCED TO
"DOD OFFICIALS") THAT 11TH SCM WILL BE 7/27-2/28 IN
SAN DIEGO.

4. CAPUTO. STRAIGHT COVERAGE OF AP REPORT THAT REP
CAPUTO SAYS EVIDENCE (INCLUDING ROK DIPLOMATIC CABLES)
ENOUGH TO INITIATE INVESTIGATION OF EIGHT INCUMBENTS
REGARDLESS OF KIM DONG-JO TESTIMONY.

5. NSA BUGGING STORY. MORNING EDITIONS COMPLETE
FACTUAL FRONTPAGE COVERAGE OF WASH STAR REPORT --
NO FOLLOW-UP IN AFTERNOON EDITIONS. NOTABLE BY ITS
ABSENCE IS LACK OF REACTION/COMMENTARY (PARTICULARLY
IN COMPARISON TO PRESS TREATMENT OF BLUE HOUSE BUGGING
ALLEGATION.)

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PAGE 03 SEOUL 04497 260923Z

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NNN

Message Attributes

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